

REMARKS

Example 1 of the specification has been amended to recite “3.0 parts by weight of maleic anhydride” instead of “1.0 parts by weight of maleic anhydride.” Support for this amendment can be found in Table 1 on page 14 of the specification.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mori et al., WO 03/014174 (“Mori”).

Applicants submit that the present invention produces a modified ethylene-vinylcyclohexane copolymer resin by melt-kneading a blend containing the following components (A) to (C) in a kneading apparatus:

- 100 parts by weight of the component (A);
- 0.1 to 20 parts by weight of the component (B); and
- 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of the component (C).

Mori discloses a melt-kneading method in paragraph [0045] as follows:

As a producing method of the modified olefin-based copolymer, for example, there are a method of adding and graft-polymerizing an alkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon and/or an unsaturated carboxylic acid or derivative thereof after melting the olefin-based copolymer, a method of adding and graft-polymerizing an alkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon and/or an unsaturated carboxylic acid or derivative thereof after dissolving the olefin-based copolymer with a solvent such as toluene or xylene, and the like.

However, Mori does not disclose a melt-kneading method so that one skilled in the art could modify the method disclosed in Mori and arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

The method disclosed in Mori is a solution method and Example 1 in Mori at paragraph [0077] is translated as follows:

To a xylene solution containing 25 parts by weight of the copolymer (B-1), there were separately fed over 4 hours (i) a xylene solution containing 25 parts by weight of maleic anhydride, and (ii) a xylene solution containing 1.48 parts by weight of 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(tert-butylperoxy)hexane. The reaction mixture was further stirred for 2 hours.

In the above example, the copolymer (B-1), maleic anhydride and 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(tert-butylperoxy)hexane corresponds to Applicants' component (A), component (B), and component (C), respectively.

Applicants provide herewith a Table, Table A, comparing the present invention with the above-mentioned Example 1 in Mori (solution method).

Table A

	Present Invention	Example 1
Parts by weight		
Component (A)	100	100
Component (B)	0.1 to 20	100
Component (C)	0.01 to 20	5.92
Reaction time	0.1 - 30 minutes (see page 10, line 26)	6 hours

The following distinctions are clear from reviewing Table A, which compares Applicants' melt-kneading method with the solution method of Example 1 in Mori:

-- the amount of component (B) in the claimed invention (0.1 to 20 parts by weight) is much smaller than the amount of component (B) used in Example 1 in Mori (100 parts by weight)

-- the reaction time in present invention (0.1-30 minutes) is much shorter than the reaction time disclosed in Example 1 in Mori (6 hours)

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

In the present invention, the melt kneading method can produce a modified product by use of component (B) in a much smaller amount and by using a shorter reaction time as compared to the solution method disclosed in Mori.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present invention would not be obvious over Mori. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

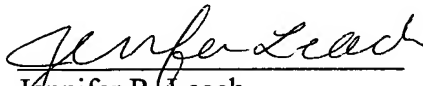
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